

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island

May 6, 2004

**Mount Hope man is sentenced to eight years
in “crack for guns” trade**

A federal judge today sentenced **Robert Ramos**, 22, of Providence, to 96 months in prison for federal firearms and drug-trafficking offenses. In November, Ramos admitted that he traded crack cocaine for four handguns in the parking lot of a Providence hotel last August.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. Ramos, of 108 Evergreen Street, has been detained since his arrest last August by the **ATF Firearms and Violent Crimes Task Force**, which is led by the **Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**.

On November 5, Ramos pleaded guilty to distributing crack cocaine and being a felon in possession of firearms. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government could prove that, on August 21, Ramos met with an undercover ATF agent and another man in a hotel room in India Point. There he looked over handguns displayed on the bed, discussed bartering crack cocaine for the guns, but declined to make the deal.

Ramos later arranged another meeting in the parking lot of the hotel, where he traded a quantity of crack cocaine for four handguns. As a team of federal agents and Providence Police moved in to arrest Ramos, he discarded the guns and attempted to flee but was arrested a short distance away.

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Project Safe Neighborhoods

The **ATF Firearms Trafficking and Violent Crimes Task Force** and **Providence Police** conducted the investigation as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Investigators from **Providence Police, Rhode Island State Police, Warwick Police**, and the **Rhode Island Attorney General's Office** are assigned to the task force.

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